

## **Dean's Academic Enrichment Fund (AEF) – Bridge Funding Application**

### **Background**

Academic Enrichment Fund (AEF) support may be awarded to the School of Medicine faculty in two categories:

1. Established Investigators who have lost major grant funding but are likely to regain support with bridge funding.
2. Beginning Investigators whose start-up funding has ended without securing independent support.

Reviews occur in May, August, and December (following application submissions). Up to \$50,000 may be awarded to a maximum of 7 applicants per cycle (20 annually).

Applications must include a commitment of 1:1 departmental match confirmed in a letter from the applicant's Chair. All applications are reviewed by a committee of investigators from various departments across the School of Medicine.

### **Eligibility**

Full time faculty at CU Anschutz, Children's Hospital, VA, or National Jewish with indirect costs assigned to the School of Medicine may apply.

Established Investigators must have lost all major grant funding (less than \$75,000 total research funding). Salary support is excluded from this total.

Applicants with two prior Bridge Funding awards require Committee and Dean approval to reapply.

### **Funding Conditions**

- Allowable expenses include research staff salaries, service contracts, animals, and supplies.
- Faculty salary is not allowable.
- Funding will be provided for 12-month period from the award date. Extensions past this period will be rare and based on exceptional circumstances.
- If outside funding is secured before or during the grant period, notification must be provided within 30 days of the extramural award notice and unused funds must be returned.
- Progress updates are required 12 months post-award. Failure to submit a progress report will result in ineligibility for future support from the Dean's Office Initiative funding.
- Successful applicants may reapply once if eligibility and progress are demonstrated.
- Unsuccessful applicants may reapply in future cycles.

### **Application Format**

Include the following components (limit: specified pages, single-spaced, Arial 11 font):

Cover letter including the following (one page limit):

- Designation as Established Investigator or Beginning Investigator
- Current research summary



Anschutz

School of Medicine

- History of institutional and external funding
- Current funding sources
- Affirmation statement that less than \$75,000 in total research funding remains available

Additional Documentation Requested:

- NIH biosketch (any format), max 5 pages
- Summary statement(s) or scores from unfunded applications
- One-page statement on addressing critiques in the revision
- Chair's letter (one page) with:
  - Departmental match commitment
  - Confirmation PI has under \$75,000 in available research funding

Do not include appendices. Non-compliant applications will be returned.

### **Chair's Letter Guidelines**

The application must include a one-page letter from the faculty member's Chair or Division Chief addressing the items outlined in the section above.

### **Submission Instructions**

Submit your application by 5pm (MT) on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, July 29, 2026, or November 18, 2026

Click here to submit: [Bridge Application](#)

For questions, contact [SOM.ResearchAffairs@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:SOM.ResearchAffairs@cuanschutz.edu).